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CREDITON
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

1937

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

FOR

Year ending 31st December, 1937.

CREDITON:
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To

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE CREDITON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1937.

GENTLEMEN,

Another year has passed, and still finds a great deal of work to be done and the Council will have an anxious time before them if they get through all the different works that require to be done.

It is not only the health of the people we have to aim for, but we must enable young people anxious to settle down to find a home all round, if not better than a house in the town, to prevent the tendency for them to leave the country, which the steady fall of our population every year shows.

The open-air life and all the vegetables they can get from their gardens should be an attraction. This entails still more new houses, which I hope the new Act will help to produce. The old ones to be reconstructed under the Workers' Act and not just patched up.

Most of the ones that have been done under this Act show the great use this has been, but care must be taken not to spend money on an out-of-date cottage ; it is cheaper in the long run to condemn them.

FOOD INSPECTION.

This has been satisfactory.

WATER SUPPLIES AND DRAINAGE.

This work I am afraid has come under notice all at once and so has made it difficult to complete and I think will still take sometime.

Morchard Bishop is still being dealt with under difficulties.

Lapford is satisfactory and supplies most of the village.

Cheriton Cross and Cheriton Bishop should be the next ones completed, but I am afraid the cost will be very great.

Coleridge and Down St. Mary are under consideration by the Ministry of Health.

Poughill is in hand.

Chawleigh. I have for many years advocated an extra drainage system with the extra necessary water supply, but my strongest opposition to it always came from the village itself on the ground of expense, but now they are finding the want of it and I hope that water will be looked for and plans and specifications made out, but I am afraid it will present difficulties.

OVERCROWDING.

One or two cases have been investigated and abated, but there is very little to find fault with.

MILK

Although there are many good samples reported there are also many failures and before conditions improve that must be the case. It must take time to bring things up to the standard required, but steady progress is being made. Number of Milk samples taken for examination of cleanliness, 95 ; number satisfactory, 43.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District, 93,508 acres ; Population 9,426, still going down, 9,528 in 1936, 10,080 in 1931. Rateable value, £26,396. Produce of Penny Rate £127 0s. 10d. District Agricultural ; 1 Milk Factory ; 1 small Manure Factory.

DEATHS.

Males 71 ; Females 73 ; Total 144. Rate per 1,000 deaths 15·2, as compared with 13·2 in 1936 and 12·1 in 1935 ; England and Wales 12·4. Deaths under 1 year, 4. Deaths from infectious diseases—Whooping Cough 1 ; Influenza 2 ; Measles, Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria 0 ; Encephalitis lethargica 1 ; Tuberculosis respiratory 5 ; Others 1 ; Puerperal sepsis 2.

BIRTHS.

Legitimate Males 72 ; Illigitimate 2, Legitimate Females 58 ; Illigitimate 4. Rate per 1,000 births 14·4 ; England and Wales 14·9. Still births—Males 2 ; Females 5.

NOTIFICATIONS.

Scarlet Fever 11 ; Diphtheria 4 ; Pneumonia 23 ; Puerperal pyrexia 2 ; Erysipelas 10.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
under 1 year			1					
over 1			2					
,, 5 ,,			1	1				
,, 10 ,,			1					
,, 15 ,,								
,, 20 ,,				1				
,, 25 ,,	1	1		1	2	1		
,, 35 ,,		1			1			
,, 45 ,,	2	2						
,, 55 ,,	1				1			
,, 65 ,,								1
Totals...	4	4	5	3	4	1	Nil	1

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Number of Dairies, Milkshops and Cowsheds	308
Number of Inspections	230
Number found defective	51
Number of Bakehouses	15
Number of Inspections	15
Number found defective	0
Number of Private Slaughter-houses	14
Number of Inspections	99
Dried Milk Factories 1. Number or Inspections ...	6
Manure Factories 1. Number of Inspections ...	16

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of Houses erected during the year with State assistance :—

By the Local Authority	10

Number of Houses erected during the year without State assistance :—

By Private Enterprise	12

Unfit Dwelling Houses :—

Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects (House-to-house Inspections)	86
Number found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	19
Number rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers or put forward under Housing (Rural Workers) Act, 1926 ...	19
Number reconstructed under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act, 1926, during the year	4
Number in hand	16
Number completed to date	94
Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Statutory Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	5
Number in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—	
(a) By Owners	5
(b) By Local Authority ...	0
Demolition orders made	0

Yours faithfully,

L. POWNE, M.O.H.